

VERMONT FARMER

ROYAL CUMMINGS, Proprietor.
T. H. HOSKINS, M. D., Editor.

NEWPORT, SATURDAY, AUG. 19, 1871.

VOL. 1, No. 37.
Terms, \$1.00 per Annum.

Vermont Farmer

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY
AT NEWPORT, ORLEANS COUNTY, VT.

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TERMS:—One dollar per annum, payable in advance. All papers discontinued when the time paid for expires.

Advertisements inserted for 50 cents per inch, first insertion; 25 cents per inch, each subsequent insertion. Twelve lines of this size type make an inch.

When a blue cross is made against this paragraph it denotes that the subscription expires the next week. We shall be pleased to have it renewed, and give thus much notice in order that the subscriber need not miss any numbers.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE DUTCH OR HOLSTEIN CATTLE NOW IN THE UNITED STATES.

By Z. E. Jameson, Secretary Orleans County Agricultural Society, and a member of the Vermont State Board of Agriculture.

When we consider the history of this country it does not seem strange that we should be more familiar with English manners, customs, manufacturers and products than those of other countries. The constant commercial intercourse with England has afforded ready means for the importation of stock of all kinds. The similarity of language has rendered transactions easy that would be difficult with a nation of another tongue, and with whom there was much less intercourse. Many importations of cattle have been made from the British Islands to Canada and the States, and by herd books breeders can know who owns animals related to their own, in whichever of these countries they may be found.

It is known that the rich and fertile lowlands of Holland have long been occupied by an industrious people who have made dairying a specialty, and have developed a remarkable breed of cattle, of which only a few specimens have been imported to this country. The excellences of these are so remarkable that it is desired by the breeders, and would be beneficial to our country, to have their history and merits more fully made known. Therefore the following results of observation, correspondence and compilation are put before the public with a desire to benefit it. The prosperity of a large eastern section of our farming country depends almost wholly upon dairying, and this is becoming a more prominent and important industry each year. If a change of stock or the incorporation of the qualities of a superior breed by a cross, can double or greatly increase the farmer's income, the subject is well worthy his careful consideration, and therefore no apology is necessary in presenting the proof of the truth that the income can be thus increased in dairy products, and that we also have a more desirable class of animals for every other purpose, than those usually kept.

Motley, in his "History of the United Netherlands," describing Holland in the seventeenth century, says: "On that scrap of solid

ground rescued by human energy from the ocean were the most fertile pastures in the world. On these pastures grazed the most famous cattle in the world. An ox often weighed more than two thousand pounds. In a single village four thousand kine were counted. Butter and cheese were exported to the annual value of a million, salted provisions to an incredible extent. The farmers were industrious, thriving and independent."

Another writer quotes from Prof. Silliman, who, in his "Journal of Travels in Holland" published in 1812, says: "Innumerable multitudes of very fine cattle were grazing upon the meadows, many of them of a pure white color, others nearly or quite black, but by far the greater number were marked by both these colors intermixed in a very beautiful manner, and we found this fact to be general, for wherever we went in Holland the cattle were black, or white, or striped and spotted with these colors. * * * We observe the cows in meadows covered with blankets to protect them from the dews."

Another writer in 1848, says: "The Dutch cows have been a long time celebrated for their abundance of milk. * * * They are generally of a black and white color, and in some cases are milked three times a day."

Charles L. Flint, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, publishes a work on "Milk Cows and Dairy Farming," in 1858, and says: "The Dutch cattle are in general renowned for their dairy qualities; especially so are the cows of North Holland which not only give a large quantity of milk, but also a very good quality." The same writer in 1863, referring to an international exhibition at Hamburg, speaks of the "long and beautiful rows of black and white cattle." The Dutch stock formed a prominent and marked feature in the show; the number of the animals was about a hundred and thirty, many of them from the finest herds in Holland.

In 1869, a writer in the *Country Gentleman*, says:—"During the years 1850, '51, and up to 1855, I often went to the cattle market in London, the first part of the time in Smithfield, and there were many cattle brought alive from the continent, chiefly from Holland. These were all marked in the peculiar way of Dutch cows—black, and a sheet of white across the middle. * * * The finest herd of milk cows I ever saw, so far as uniformity and large udders go, was in Hertfordshire, England, and they were bred from imported cows. Though they numbered upwards of 30, the man who looked after them told me there was not a bad milker among them. * * * Dutch cheese and Dutch butter command a much higher price than any other articles of the kind imported into England, and though good management in Holland has most to do with this, doubtless the cattle are excellent for dairy purposes."

In 1868, L. F. Allen, late President of the New York State Agricultural Society, and editor of the *Shorthorn Herd Book*, published a volume on American cattle containing this in regard to the Holstein or Dutch breed. "Their surpassing excellence appears to be

in their milking qualities, coupled with large size, and a compact massive frame capable of making good beef, and the oxen are strong, laboring animals. They are almost invariably black and white in color, spotted, pied, or mottled in picturesque inequalities of proportion over the body. The horn is short, and the hair is short, fine and silky. The lacteal formations in the cows are wonderful, thus giving them their preëminence for the dairy."

In 1871, Prof. Geo. H. Cook of the New Jersey Agricultural College, writing of his recent travels in Holland, says:—"One of the first things that attract the attention of the traveler in Holland, is the great number of cattle. They are to be seen everywhere at pasture, and their decided colors of black and white in large spots, and not rarely black with the broad belt of white, make them conspicuous. The fame of the Dutch cows for dairy purposes made me interested to inquire into their peculiar excellences. I visited only two or three dairies and got the most definite information at one in Beemster, some 15 or 20 miles north of Amsterdam. * * * The yearly average for 26 cows was 4884 quarts for each cow, a monthly average of 408 quarts, a daily average of 13.6 quarts. The cows have been selected with great care. No pedigree is kept in Holland, but Mr. Shuis judged of the quality of his cows by the size of the milk mirror, by yellowness of the skin, the abundance of scurf on it, and the clear definition of the black and white colors. They were all carefully blanketed when I was there and were constantly in the pasture. * * * He said that it took 24 quarts of milk to make four pounds of cheese in winter, while 21 quarts in summer would yield four pounds of cheese." [Calling it six quarts of milk for a pound of cheese, these 26 cows would each average 815½ pounds of cheese in a year. Z. E. J.] "There were in Holland, in 1864, 1,233,887 cattle of which 943,214 were cows. 32,000,000 pounds of butter, and 61,000,000 cheese were exported from the country in 1864. The population of New York is about the same as that of Holland. The whole number of cattle of all sorts in that state in 1870, was estimated at 702,000. The whole amount of butter exported from the United States from June 1869, to June 1870, was 2,039,488 lbs., and of cheese 47,296,323 lbs. There have been some full blooded Dutch cows and many grade cows of this breed in the vicinity of New Brunswick, N. J., and they are uniformly good milkers."

In another article Prof. Cook writes of the cows at the Agricultural College of Bonn, that nearly all the cows are Dutch, they having tried the Shorthorns and could not make a living by them."

The foregoing extracts plainly show that the few Dutch cattle in this country are representatives of an old, well established and very desirable breed, highly esteemed for their excellent dairy qualities, that cannot probably be surpassed by any cattle in the world, and that the color has been black and white as far back as any trace of their history

can be found.

The Dutch cattle were first introduced into this country by the West India Company about the year 1626, and subsequently other importations were made by early Dutch settlers in the state of New York, and cattle of these colors are occasionally seen in Connecticut and Rhode Island, and old men speak of Dutch cows (probably grades) that were famous milkers in their youthful days.

Early in the present century, Hon. Wm. Jarvis, of Weathersfield, Vt., imported a bull and five cows. They were bred on his farm, pure from mixture with other stock, and remain so to the present day.

In 1864, W. W. Chenery, Esq., writes of this importation:—"These cattle soon acquired an enviable reputation which has been maintained down to the present time. A few full-bloods and some crosses are still remaining on the Jarvis farm, and although they do not compare favorably with the latest importations of Dutch cattle, they are regarded in that part of the country as a very superior kind of Shorthorn cattle, remarkably good for milk, both in quantity and in quality. As working oxen they have there a very high reputation, being large, strong, well made, quick and high spirited, and have great endurance of heat. They are very muscular, and having great aptitude to fatten, the drovers and butchers have always esteemed them very highly. They are also considered there, extremely valuable to cross with other breeds."

The following extract from a letter dated June 22, 1871, written by Russell Jarvis, Esq., of Claremont, sheds some light upon this stock. "Consul Jarvis did not breed from crosses of importations of other Dutch cattle, but bred exclusively from his own importation and, as it is termed, bred in and in. The only Dutch cattle that I know of now, in this vicinity, are those belonging to myself, with the exception of one cow owned by his son-in-law, Leavitt Hunt, at Weathersfield."

One of the purchasers of this stock was C. W. Bellows, of Pepperell, Mass., who writes Sept. 19, 1870:—"Mr. Jones, of Amherst, N. H., and I bought all of Jarvis's full-bloods the year he died, [This would not, of course, include what might have been owned by Russell Jarvis, in Claremont. Z. E. J.] and then got some seven head of the Orange County Milk Association importation, and have bred them carefully together, and have really the best dairy stock I know of. They are not so large as the Chenery stock, but can beat them every time for dairy use. At the Manchester fair, with three head, I took two first premiums against sixty head of his and the stock from Putney. * * * I sold Mr. Carlos Pierce all the Dutch cattle he had to start with excepting one. * * * You can depend upon their milking and butter qualities."

In 1869, an article appeared in the *Country Gentleman* from Mr. Bellows. He says:—"They are large enough for all practical purposes, and produce more milk and of better quality for butter than any other breed I have kept. The cows weigh from 1000 to

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